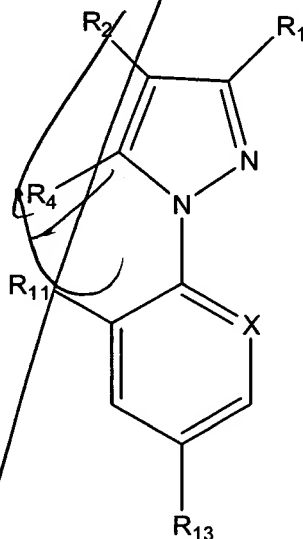


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents to read as follows:

22. (Currently Amended) A method for the eradication of fleas in domestic or accommodation premises of a domestic or laboratory mammal, comprising topically applying, at least monthly, to a localized region having a surface area between 5 and 10 cm² on the domestic or laboratory mammal, a parasitically effective amount of a spot-on topical preparation comprising a veterinarily acceptable vehicle and a compound of Formula I:

Formula I:



in which:

R₁ is CN, methyl or a halogen atom:

R_2 is $S(O)_n R_3$, 4,5-dicyanoimidazol-2-yl or haloalkyl;

R_3 is alkyl or haloalkyl;

R_4 is a hydrogen or halogen atom, $NR_5 R_6$, $S(O)_m R_7$, $C(O)O R_7$, or an alkyl, haloalkyl, OR_8 or $N=C(R_9)(R_{10})$ radical NH_2 ;

R_5 and R_6 , independently of one another, are a hydrogen atom or an alkyl,

haloalkyl, $C(O)$ -alkyl, alkoxy-carbonyl or $S(O)_r CF_3$ radical; or R_5 and R_6 can,

optionally, together form a divalent alkylene radical which can be interrupted by one or two divalent heteroatoms;

R_7 is an alkyl or haloalkyl radical;

R_8 is an alkyl or haloalkyl radical or a hydrogen atom;

R_9 is an alkyl radical or a hydrogen atom;

R_{10} is a phenyl or heteroalkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or groups;

R_{11} and R_{12} are, independently of one another, a hydrogen or halogen atom, or optionally CN or NO_2 a halogen atom;

R_{13} is a halogen atom or a haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, $S(O)_q CF_3$ or SF_5 group;

m , n , q or r are, independently of one another, n is an integer equal to 0, 1 or 2;

X is a trivalent nitrogen atom or a $C-R_{12}$ radical, the three other valencies of the carbon atom being part of the aromatic ring;

or optionally of a compound of Formula II:

wherein Y is hydrogen or halogen

R₁₄ is hydrogen or methyl

and Z is ~~(CH₂)_n~~ with n = 1 or 2;

wherein, when the preparation is so applied to the mammal, through the action of the compound and the vehicle, the compound diffuses over the mammal's body, and then dries without crystallization and without modifying the mammal's appearance and coat.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of canine and feline.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the heteroatom is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and sulfur.

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein R₁₃ is CF₃.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the compound of Formula (I) is 1-[2, 6-Cl₂-4-CF₃-phenyl]-3-CN-4-[SO-CF₃]-5-NH₂-pyrazole.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein in the compound of Formula (II) is 1-[(6-chloro-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4, 5-dihydro-N-nitro-1H-imidazole-2-amine.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the dose of the compound is between 0.3 and 60 mg/kg of treated mammal

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the dose of the compound is between 5 and 15 mg/kg of treated animal.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the amount of the topical preparation applied to felines is about 0.3 to 1 ml/mg.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the amount of the topical preparation applied to felines is about 0.3 to 0.5 ml/kg.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the amount of the topical preparation applied to canines is about 0.3 to 3 ml/kg.


43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the topical preparation further comprises a crystallization inhibitor, an organic solvent and an organic co-solvent.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the topical preparation further comprises a second parasiticide.

D

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the second parasiticide is selected from the group consisting of those compounds mimicking juvenile hormones and chitin synthesis inhibitors.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the second parasiticide is an endectocidal parasiticide of macrocyclic lactone type.

 47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the second parasiticide is selected from the group consisting of avermectins, ivermectin, abamectin, doramectin, moxydectin, milbemycins and derivatives thereof.

48. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, when the premises contain several mammals, all the mammals are treated at the same time.

49. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the treatment is carried out continuously, optionally taking account of the infestation seasons where infestation is seasonal.